

**REMARKS AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13-18 and 26-36. By the present Response, claims 15, 26, and 31 are amended and claims 13 and 14 are canceled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 15-18 and 26-36 will be pending in the present patent application. In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

**Interview Summaries**

On February 1, 2005, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed the rejection of the pending independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph with regard to the term “squeezing.” In this interview, the Examiner suggested that the term “squeezing in claims 13, 15, 26, and 31 be replaced with the phrase “applying force to the cam arm and the removal arm together in opposite directions.” In making this suggestion, the Examiner noted that the suggested claim language was broader than the replaced language, i.e., the amendment was broadening and not narrowing. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated his willingness to enter the suggested amendment for the claims at issue.

On February 3, 2005, the undersigned faxed the Examiner some proposed amendments, for discussion only, employing alternative claim language which was believed to address the Examiner’s concerns. On February 9, 2005, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed the suggested alternative language but were unable to come to

agreement on the acceptability of the suggested language. Subsequently, the undersigned faxed new proposed language and amendments for claims 15, 26, and 31 to the Examiner.

On February 10, 2005, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed the proposed claim language changes and amendments to claims 15, 26, and 31. In this discussion, the Examiner agreed to the proposed language to be used in place of the term "squeezing." The agreed upon language was essentially the language suggested by the Examiner in prior conversations. Both parties agreed the agreed upon language was not narrowing in scope.

The parties did not agree upon the elimination of the phrase "located generally in the center of the retainer clip body" from claims 15, 26, and 31 to address a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph raised by the Examiner for the first time in the present Office Action. The parties did verbally agree, however, that amendment of claims 15, 26, and 31 to replace the term "center" with "middle" would address the Examiner's concern without narrowing the scope of the claim. In view of the Examiner's agreement as to the acceptability of these amendments during the interview of February 10, 2005, the agreed upon amendments are provided herein for entry.

**Remarks**

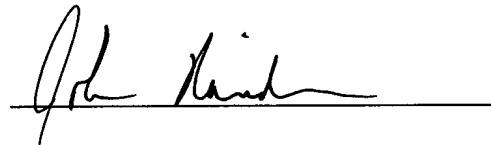
The amendments agreed upon on February 10, 2005, are provided herein for entry with regard to claims 15, 26, and 31. These amendments are responsive to and address the rejections given by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph in the

present Office Action. In particular, the term "squeezing" is replaced with the phrase "applying force together and in opposite directions" and the term "center" is replaced by the term "middle." Neither of these amendments is believed to be narrowing. In addition, by the present Response, claims 13 and 14 are canceled.

**Conclusion**

In view of the agreed upon acceptability of the amendments to claims 15, 26, and 31 and in view of the cancellation of claims 13 and 14 all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rariden", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: February 15, 2005

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